



Pimelea ignota

Common Name(s):

Pimelea, pinatoro

Current Threat Status (2012):

Nationally Critical

Distribution:

Endemic: South Island: North-West Nelson, Tai Tapu Coast

Habitat:

Burrows (2009) states "On thin, infertile, strongly leached loess over hard Cretaceous conglomerate, in short manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) scrub, near coast".

Features*:

A small to medium-sized, erect to sprawling shrub, 200–300 mm high, with clustered lateral branches. Prone stems often longer. On young branchlets bands of sparse, moderately long hair usually extend the length of the internode; internodes 0.3–2 mm long; older stems glabrate to glabrous, grey-brown. Node buttresses smooth, dark brown, extending the length of the internode, conspicuous on leafless stems. Leaves decussate, loosely imbricate, coriaceous, crowded on upper branchlets, on short (0.5–1.0 mm) reddish petioles. Mature leaves glabrous, young leaves usually with a few short hairs at tip. Lamina 8–12 × 4–5.5.0 mm, broad-elliptic to broad-ovate, medium green, flat or concave above, margin thickened, slightly upturned, midvein evident but not prominent below, lateral veins obscure; obtuse, acute or slightly acuminate, sometimes with a small apicula, base cuneate. Stomata on both leaf surfaces. Inflorescences terminal on branchlets, up to 4-flowered (from count of old pedicels). Involucral bracts 4, similar in size to adjacent leaves (7.2–8.0 × 4.5–5.0 mm). Plants probably gynodioecious. Flowers white, on short pedicels (0.3 mm), tube and calyx lobes hairy on outside, inside hairless. Female tube 6 mm long, ovary portion 4 mm, calyx lobes 2.4 × 1.3 mm. No information is available on hermaphrodite flowers or anthers. Ovary with relatively sparse hair at summit. Fruits ovoid, fleshy, white, opaque 6.2 × 3.5 mm (estimate). Seeds ovoid, 3 × 1.6 mm, thin crest.

Flowering:

November

Fruiting:

January

Threats:

Previously listed as Data Deficient by de Lange et al. (2009) (as *Pimelea* (g) (CHR 358213; Te Tai Tapu)). Currently known from seven plants and five herbarium specimens gathered from much the same site over the last 62 years. The oldest known plant died in 2010 at the age of 30 years at least (Simon Walls, DOC, Takaka, pers. comm.). The taxonomic status of *P. ignota* still needs critical evaluation using modern taxonomic techniques.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 11 November 2009. Description based on Burrows (2009).

References and further reading:

Burrows, C.J. 2008: Genus *Pimelea* (Thymelaeaceae) in New Zealand 1. The taxonomic treatment of seven endemic, glabrous-leaved species. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 45: 127–176.

Burrows, C.J. 2009: Genus *Pimelea* (Thymelaeaceae) in New Zealand 3. The taxonomic treatment of six endemic hairy-leaved species. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 47: 325–354.

de Lange, P.J.; Norton, D.A.; Courtney, S.P.; Heenan, P.B.; Barkla, J.W.; Cameron, E.K.; Hitchmough, R.; Townsend, A.J. 2009: Threatened and uncommon plants *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 47: 61–96.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=6645



Caption: Stems and base - Kaihoka badlands

Photographer: Simon Walls



Caption: Luna Badlands, Kahoka (flowers)

Photographer: Simon Walls